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It is well over a year since the last newsletter for which your editor apologises. Family bereavements have caused him to spend considerable time in the UK.

Profile



Laura Banducci

My first pleasant task is to welcome Dr. Laura Banducci who joined the Greek and Roman program as a full-time faculty member in the fall of 2014. She came to Carleton after being a SSHRC post-doctoral fellow at the University of Toronto. Laura studied at McMaster University and the University of Cambridge before completing her Ph.D. at the University of Michigan in Classical Art and Archaeology. Laura's main research is in pre-Roman and Roman archaeology, concentrating on daily behaviour (like food preparation and consumption) and artefact analysis. She has been excavating in central Italy since 2005. This summer she will be taking some students to Italy to do field work for credit. Laura has also become the point-person for a collaboration with NCC archaeologist Ian Badgley on the pre-contact aboriginal excavation he runs in Vincent Massey Park. Apparently there is a very large and important site both across the river and almost certainly on Carleton's campus too. He is not sure when his excavation season will be this summer, but we are hoping that our students can participate for field work credit through the summer.

Laura's arrival at Carleton is not only highly beneficial to the GRS's program in general but is also very timely, for Professor Susan Downie prepared a proposal and helped, this past academic year, to usher through Faculty Board and Senate a new **Minor in Archaeology**. The fulfillment of this proposal has been a long time in the making and was first initiated by Professor Elizabeth Klaassen during her time as coordinator of the GRS program. Her initiative has played an important part in its design. The new Minor is truly exciting news. It will be available for students to register in from May 2015 and will become fully operational in September. Susan Downie will be taking 22 students to Turkey and Greece from May 3-24 for a credit course, CLCV 3400. They will also be joined by 10 others, going purely for their love and interest in the sites and material. We wish them all a great trip!

Their Excellencies, Ambassadors of The Republic of Greece

It was with some sadness but much appreciation that we learnt that His Excellency, Eleftherios Anghelopoulos, stepped down as the Greek Ambassador to Canada in the middle of 2014. His Excellency was the Honorary Patron of FGRS and was very supportive of many of our endeavours. He attended four of our productions of Greek tragedies, *Oedipus*, *Hippolytus*, *Antigone* and *Medea*. At the last one he attended, *Medea*, His Excellency honoured us by bringing Madame Karakatsanis, a Supreme Court Justice of Canada and her husband, M. Karakatsanis. In an email to the editor of the FGRS newsletter, after he heard of the performance of *The Women of Trachis* in November 2014, he wrote: ‘I would like to confess... that of all the things I loved in Canada, I miss these performances the most. I miss, as the Greek poet C. P. Kavafy wrote in *Ithaka*, this “rare excitement that stirs your spirit and your body.” My profound thanks and appreciation to all the students and other members of the community who performed in and helped with these productions. We wish His Excellency best wishes for the future, whether it keeps him in Greece or sends him to another posting.

His Excellency, George Marcantonatos, took up his new post as Ambassador of The Republic of Greece to Canada in the fall of 2014. He also honoured us by attending the performance of Sophocles’ *Women of Trachis* in November. His Excellency was accompanied by his wife Mme Marcantonatos and other members of the Embassy. We not only welcome him and Mme Marcantonatos to Canada but wish them a productive and pleasant stay. We do apologise if they do not find the weather quite as they would like, but we have no control over what Zeus plans for us mortals.



The *Medea* cast from Carleton University with Supreme Court Justice, Mrs. Andromache Karakatsanis, Ambassador Eleftherios Anghelopoulos, Director Josh Beer and Stage Manager David Gardner

Events

Canadian Museum of History (Gatineau)

There will be a special exhibition at the museum from June 5, 2015 to October 12, 2015:
THE GREEKS – AGAMEMNON TO ALEXANDER THE GREAT.

The announcement for the exhibition reads as follows:

“Take an extraordinary journey through more than 5,000 years of Greek culture, from the Neolithic era to the age of Alexander the Great.

Featuring over 500 exquisite artifacts — many that have never been exhibited outside Greece — from 21 Greek museums, this is the most comprehensive exhibition on Ancient Greece to tour North America in a generation.”

Guest Lectures

There were two guest lectures this term by distinguished scholars. Both were well attended:

William V. Harris (Columbia University): “Understanding Roman Money: Problems, Solutions and More Problems” (February 26).

Christopher (Toph) W. Marshall (University of British Columbia): “Prostitution, Trafficking, and Comedy in Ancient Rome” (March 4).

W.F. Jackson Knight

Several people told me how much they enjoyed Dr. Ray Clark’s article on his Classics Professor at the University of Exeter, W.F. Jackson Knight. Ray has encouraged me to fill out his portrait of JK with my own reminiscences, even though I only heard him speak as a guest lecturer on one occasion in 1962, when I was an undergraduate at the University of Bristol. He certainly made a vivid impression on me as he seems to have done on most people who met him.

At the time JK was arguably the most widely known Vergilian Scholar in the UK because of his translation of the *Aeneid* (1956) for Penguin Classics. It is difficult to underestimate the importance of Penguin Classics at the time, since they were widely and cheaply available in newsagents like W.H. Smith’s and opened up such works to a large general reading public. The first in the series, Homer’s *Odyssey*, which had been published in 1946 by E.V. Rieu, the founding editor of Penguin Classics, became the largest selling book in the UK outside of the King James version of the *Bible*.

The day after JK's Bristol lecture, President de Gaulle of France was due to block the UK's application to join the European Economic Community – something that was widely known. In the audience, the day of the lecture, sitting in the front on opposite sides of the room, were two Bristol Classics professors, William Beare, the chair of Latin, and David Eichholz, the reader in Classics, both of whom taught Vergil as a special topic.

JK, as I gather was typical, arrived late for the lecture, hurried onto the platform without tripping and threw off his long, fawn coloured raincoat. Underneath he was wearing a three-piece brown pinstripe suit, white shirt and tie. He had white thinning hair with a parting and which was combed back, revealing an attractive forehead. Without introduction he began in his high-pitched voice "Vergil!" He immediately saw David Eichholz on one side of the room, so he broke off his lecture and rushed over to shake David's hand for what seemed a long period of time. The handshake completed, JK hurried back onto the platform and exclaimed "Vergil!" This time he broke off on seeing William Beare on the other side and rushed off again to shake Beare's hand as vigorously as he had done Eichholz'. Back again on the platform he repeated for the third time "Vergil!" – this time only to break off and say, "I don't know why I'm giving this lecture, when there are two people here who could give it far better than I." At once he put his hand in his pocket, and pulled out a packet of *Gitane* cigarettes and asked if anyone in the room would like a French cigarette, "because," as he said, "we will not be able to get them tomorrow, if President de Gaulle has his way." Whether the audience laughed at this, I do not remember, but we were certainly bemused. I don't recall the details of the lecture except one anecdote, when JK said he and some fellow undergraduates at Oxford used to push a weedy looking fellow off the sidewalk into the road – he then said with a twinkle in his eye, "he later became quite famous: a man called T.E. Lawrence – you may have heard of him as Lawrence of Arabia." Whatever JK did actually say in his lecture he inspired me to read his book, *Roman Vergil*. Idiosyncratic though it was, it was very erudite and showed JK's passionate love of the poet.

At the time I did not know that JK was a spiritualist who communed with Vergil. But about three years later JK's name happened to come up in a conversation I had with my Ph.D. supervisor, John Herington, at the University of Toronto. Herington had taught briefly at the University of Exeter before coming to North America. Shortly after he arrived in Exeter, Herington attended a public lecture being given on the sound of ancient Greek. The lecturer asked, as an example, how the Greeks would have pronounced Pythagoras' name. The unknown man sitting next to Herington suddenly whispered in John's ear, "Pu-ta-go-ras. He told me so, he told me so." This was John Herington's introduction to JK. "What a delightful man," John said, "but so eccentric."

Josh Beer

Publications and Scholarly Activity of GRS Faculty

Laura Banducci: “Roman pottery function and use: proposing a quantitative method for the assessment of use wear,” *Journal of Mediterranean Archaeology*, 2014; “Mourning deaths and endangering lives: Etruscan chariot racing between symbol and reality,” *Papers of the British School at Rome*, 2014.

Susan Downie developed a new course CLCV 3201/HIST 3009 Ancient Greek Warfare, offered Winter 2015.

Greg Fisher: *Inside and Out: Interactions between Rome and the Peoples on the Arabian and Egyptian Frontiers in Late Antiquity*, (co-edited with Jitse Dijkstra) Peeters Press, 2014; *Arabs and Empires Before Islam*, (editor) Oxford University Press, to be published September 2015. This edited volume offers a comprehensive and up-to-date examination of what ancient sources had to say about the politics, culture, and religion of the Arabs in the pre-Islamic period. A third book, a short parallel life on Hannibal Barca and Scipio Africanus, for The History Press (UK), is due to appear in March 2016. Greg was also nominated for a Capital Educators’ Award, and served on the SSHRCC Insight Grants Committee for Classical, Medieval, and Religious Studies. Finally, in 2014, Greg joined the communications team of the Spanish NGO *Heritage for Peace*, which documents damage to Syria’s heritage as a result of the civil war and the activities of Islamic State. <http://www.heritageforpeace.org/>

Shane Hawkins: *Studies in the language of Hipponax: Munich studies in historical linguistics*, Bd. 14, Hemen Verlag, 2013. “Catullus c. 60: Lesbia, Medea, Clodia, Scylla” in *American Journal of Philology* (vol. 135), 2014. In the spring of 2014 Shane was awarded a FASS junior faculty research award for a project with Richard Mann on the Application of 3D and Digital Technologies to the Study of Antiquity.

Liz Klaassen: “Livy’s Lucretia and the Problem of Revenge”, paper given at *The Association of Ancient Historians*, McGill University, May 2014.

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